



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH CARE REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION



CHILD & RESIDENTIAL  
CARE FACILITIES DIVISION

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### ***Urgent Message***

### **To Individuals Who May Be Providing Unlicensed Child Care**

If you are caring for infants and/or children under the age of 15 years, you may be operating a child development facility. A child development facility can be in your home, in your church or any place where youngsters are cared for on a regular basis.

Child development facilities are required by law to be licensed. **Title 29** of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), Chapter 3, contains standards that all child development facilities must follow. First and foremost, it provides that, with few exceptions, any individual or facility providing care, supervision and guidance for infants or children, for less than 24 hours a day per infant or child, on a regular basis, must be licensed as a child care facility no matter what it calls itself. The licensing standards are designed to protect the children who are being cared for as well as the providers who offer child care services

The Department of Health, Health Regulation Administration, Child & Residential Care Facilities Division (C&RCFD) is responsible for licensing and inspecting child development facilities. If the C&RCFD determines that you are operating an unlicensed child development facility, you may be subject to enforcement action. Section 310 of 29 DCMR makes operating a child development facility without a license a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of up to \$300. In addition, under the Civil Infraction Act of 1985, the fine for unlicensed operation of the child development facility is \$650.00

If you are caring for children and wish to avoid penalties prescribed by law, you should contact the C&RCFD for more detailed information as soon as possible. **Your voluntary compliance will benefit the children and will aid you in providing an effective, safe program.** The C&RCFD learns about unlicensed activity by anonymous phone calls and through written correspondence as well as on-site inspections. All such complaints are investigated and many result in the imposition of fines and other enforcement actions. If you have any questions about your license status, **you** should take the initiative and contact the C&RCFD before the C&RCFD receives a complaint against you filed by someone else.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE C&RCFD AT 442-5929. Help us help you protect our children.**